

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 14, 2012

Agenda Item: 2012 – 2013 Special Mountain Lion License Allocation

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Final Rule

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for all game species. This happens every other year between December and Final adoptions in February. The 2012 and 2013 mountain lion season structures were finalized by the FWP Commission on Feb. 16, 2012. Adopted changes included a split, or hybrid, special license/general quota season in Region 2, which also allowed an unsuccessful special lion license applicant to purchase a general mountain lion license valid in any open general license district in both the fall and winter seasons. This adjustment to the special lion license allocation process was meant to apply only to Region 2 but inadvertently encompassed all of Montana. In March, the commission instructed FWP to offer a correction. ■■■

The proposed correction, adopted in April, is for any unsuccessful special lion license applicant to be able to purchase a general lion license valid for any open district statewide during the fall season and also for any open quota areas in Region 2 during the winter season. The final proposal represents no change from the April adoption.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The formal public comment period ran through 5 p.m. Monday, May 21. Comments were mixed and many comments addressed the mountain lion quota proposal. Otherwise, the comments both supported and opposed the proposed change.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2011 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Given the inadvertent adoption—and subsequent discussions between mountain lion hunters and the FWP Commission—FWP recommends this adjustment to the lion license allocation process. The lion season debate in Region 2 was significant with some public concern that lion hunters in Region 2 were declining. This proposed adjustment would potentially address that concern.

Proposed Motion

I move the commission adopt the final adjustment and correction to the 2012 and 2013 special mountain lion license allocation process as proposed by FWP.